

QUERINational Program

June 2019

Corresponding Principal Investigator: Mary Whooley MD
mary.whooley@va.gov

Measurement Science QUERI

Integrate Measurement Science into Healthcare for Veterans
San Francisco, CA

Project Co-Investigators

Rebecca Brown, MD, MPH
Beth Cohen, MD, MAS
Tonya Kaltenbach, MD, MAS
David Schopfer, MD, MAS
Karen Seal, MD, MPH

Overview

The purpose of this work is to promote more rapid translation of research into practice. Measurement Science (defined as the theory, practice, and application of suitable metrics) is at the core of VA's Learning Healthcare System and is a critical component at every stage of the quality improvement and implementation process. Whenever a healthcare decision is made, it must be based on valid and reliable data that are linked with all relevant information. Using system-wide data to promote performance measurement, improvement efforts, and changes in healthcare delivery depends on the uniformity of these metrics, the efficiency with which they can be obtained, and the accuracy with which they are measured. Without meaningful metrics, quality improvement and implementation of effective therapies cannot be accomplished.

Measurement Science QUERI investigators are collaborating with VA operational partners to implement four high-priority evidence-based practices:

- Improve quality assessment of colonoscopy,
- Expand integrated pain management programs,
- Enhance delivery of home-based cardiac rehabilitation, and
- Improve measurement of functional status in older Veterans.

These projects are united by the need to identify and clearly define standardized metrics to facilitate tracking of future benefits (or harms).

Methodology

The Measurement Science QUERI Program also seeks to disseminate evidence-based therapies by incorporating quality improvement and implementation science into

training programs for healthcare providers. Once approximately 10-25% of a population adopts an innovation, a "tipping point" is reached where the innovation rapidly becomes adopted by most potential users until only a minority of final adopters remains. Leaders of training programs represent ideal "Early Adopters" given their advanced education and leadership positions. They can then encourage trainees to be part of the early majority and help adoption reach a critical mass to become self-sustaining.

Anticipated Findings and Impacts

- Improving the quality of colonoscopy care through standardized assessment of colonoscopy metrics and creation of a colonoscopy quality report card for endoscopy providers.
- Using Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles to iteratively implement and disseminate an Integrated Pain Team to optimize pain management and reduce opioid use in Veterans with chronic pain.
- Enhancing the implementation of home-based cardiac rehabilitation programs in accordance with published performance measures for secondary prevention.
- Developing a strategy for implementing routine functional status measurement for older Veterans, using guidelines from the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change study.

Operations Partner(s)

Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Office of Mental Health Services, Office of Gastroenterology (Specialty Care Services), Office of Cardiology (Specialty Care Services), Office of Patient-Centered Care, the VA Information Resource Center, and the VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure.

VA



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